Dear Editor Vance:

Stealing time to . . . skim the cream (of which there was a thick layer) from the most recent issue of our Journal just at hand . . . . Please do not discontinue "The Old Fossil" column. I enjoy and profit from this greatly. Please continue your alert practices which are making ABT the stimulating journal we need . . . . We are moving ahead and abreast of the times . . . . We must create the desire on the part of teachers to pick up every issue and look it over. . . . We cannot fail to interest the teacher with our present jam-packed utility. Nelson's "Opportunities . . ." will be worth its weight in gold with my students. . . . Keep on personalizing the Journal. The new Ward's Bulletins are excellent. . . . We are moving ahead! I just had to stop and tell you so.

CHARLES E. PACKARD,
Assoc. Prof. of Biology,
Randolph-Macon College

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health result from heavy consumption of sugar in the United States. The evidence includes sweetened and soft drinks. The Association recommends that the sale of sweetened beverages and confections in schools be stopped as a direct help toward improving dental health of school children.

National Teacher Examinations will be given at 200 centers throughout the United States on Saturday, Feb. 13, 1954. Application forms and a bulletin of information, describing registration procedures and containing sample test questions, may be obtained from college officials, school superintendents, or directly from Educational Testing Service, Box 592, Princeton, N. J.

Worth quoting to your students: "It is technology that gives the extra things that count. Industrial technology provides the extra food on the table, the extra mile on the speedometer, the extra dollar in the wallet. It is the extra bushel in the barn, the extra suit in the closet, the extra diploma at commencement time. It is the extra hours of leisure, the extra years of health and life, the extra measure of security. We have now opened up a whole new stage for our national development, a stage on which the elements of the land and the people are augmented by a third dimension—the dimension of science . . . ." Excerpt from speech by **Henry B. du Pont** before Kinston, N. Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

The Illinois Society for Medical Research announces a contest restricted to high school students. Essays of 250 words on the topic, "Animal Experiments and My Health," may be submitted before midnight, March 30, to **Dr. N. R. Brewer,** 951 E. 58th St., Chicago 37, Ill. First prize is $25.00; second, $15.00; third, $5.00. Further information may be had from Dr. Brewer, **Dr. J. M. Sanders,** 6800 Stewart Ave., Chicago 21, Ill., or Nat'l Society for Medical Research, 208 N. Wells St., Shicago 6, Ill.

Dr. Earl R. Glenn, Fulbright Prof. of Educ. Research, will spend another year at Central Philippines University in Iloilo, one of the central islands. CPU specializes in elementary education, and Dr. Glenn assists teachers in defining investigations for M.A. Degrees. Greetings and best wishes, Dr. Glenn.

Who said this, and when? **"Nothing can better deserve your patronage than the promotion of science."** George Washington (1790)

Bro. H. Charles, St. Mary's College, Winona, Minn., contributor of *Biology In The News* and aggressive NABT and Editorial Staff Member, suggests that we should have "a book listing each especially active NABT member with personal data and a short summary of the activities and interests of each" for the guidance of new officers and Committee Chairmen. Send him your suggestions on this idea. **Would someone volunteer to compile such "a book"?**

American Cyanamid reports that the new antibiotic drug, **"tetracycline,"** is now on the market. The development of this new antibiotic is one of the most fascinating stories in the annals of modern medicine.

Just reported—through an error in hold-over copy for the Oct. 1953 issue, from the previous editorship, a letter printed at the bottom of Page 162 of that issue was from **Sister Mary Alverna** instead of Sister Mary Aquina.

Oxytocin, a hormone of the body's "master gland," the pituitary, **has been produced synthetically** by a team of biochemists led by **Dr. Vincent du Vigneaud,** Prof. of Biochemistry, Cornell Univ. Medical College. This is the first of the pituitary gland's vital secretions, which include ACTH, to be produced in the test tube, and the first polypeptid hormone to be produced synthetically. Oxytocin is the chief uterine-contracting and milk-releasing hormone of the pituitary gland. The synthetic product has the same physical and chemical properties as the natural compound, and demonstrates the same biological effects in experimental animals and clinical use.

Polio research made great gains in 1953. Don't forget **The March of Dimes,** Jan. 2-31.

If you could not attend NABT's thrilling Annual Convention at Boston, plan now for 1954.

NABT was ably represented at the "Resources for the Future" conference in Washington, D. C. Dec. 2–4 by **Weaver, Hadsall, Jeffers,** and **Palmer.** Plans were laid for joint action with other professional groups.

A new high honor and responsibility has been conferred on our versatile Mg. Editor, **Muriel Beuschlein,** recently chosen Chairman of a Local Area Conservation Study Project approved by The Steering Committee of the Illinois Curriculum Study group. **Dick Weaver,** Project Leader of NABT's Conservation Project, working with Illinois Chairman **Bob Smith** and Regional Chairman and NABT Pres. **Art Baker,** interested this group through preliminary meetings started last January. Congrats to Muriel, Dick, Bob, and Art for another major contribution.

You should read the complimentary letters that cross my desk each week on recent Journal improvements. Thanks to all of **you** who helped make these possible. **Let's move aggressively ahead to make ABT the top-ranking publication in its field!**

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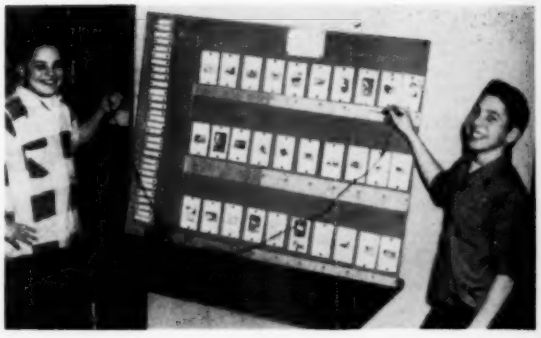
A Changeable Electric Bulletin Board

PAUL V. WEBSTER, City Schools, Bryan, Ohio

The electric bulletin board, which is already a well-known teaching aid, may be designed with some interesting innovations.

Our electric bulletin board has a shellaced plywood base, with strips of corkboard to which the pictures and names may be thumbtacked. The corkboard strips were made from scrap pieces of a bulletin board. The contact bolts and taps were placed under the pictures, and to the left of the names, in order to pierce only the plywood. When the circuit is completed between the name and the correct picture, a door buzzer sounds. The buzzer, which was toned down to avoid too much noise, had the bakelite shield replaced by a clear plastic cover made in a plastics class of the school. Thus the operation of the buzzer could be seen by the science students. A cheap transformer was used, eliminating the need for replacing dry cells. The two leads are radio test leads purchased at a local radio shop. The wires connecting the pictures to the names are extra long, so that they can be changed now and then to prevent mere memorization of a sequence pattern.

There is room for 30 small pictures and names. We have found this large enough to be challenging and not too large to be discouraging. An outstanding feature of this electric bulletin board is that it can be changed frequently. Each change constitutes a small project for a student. A change every two weeks provides enough time for the students to gain proficiency on a set this large, and for them to enjoy showing others how well they have conquered a set.



Contact! Dean Crutch, *left*, and John Hardy, *right*, proudly display the electric bulletin board they constructed.

Small pictures are pasted on the unruled side of $3'' \times 5''$ cards, and the correct names are written on the backs of the cards for filing purposes. The names for the board are printed or typewritten in capital letters on strips of heavy paper. When the two weeks are up, the cards of that particular set are placed in an envelope, labeled, and filed for use the next year. Larger pictures may be used, with arrows pointing to the corresponding contact bolts, if it is impossible to get ten of these larger pictures in one row across the board. Collections such as leaves, insects, sea shells, and twigs may be pinned to the board and identified similarly. This sort of identification is lacking in many of our biology textbooks, and the changeable electric bulletin board is one of the many aids which can be used to help meet this interest and need.